

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks, and entry of this paper is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the Final Office Action of October 19, 2004, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

Claims 9-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413).

Independent claims 9, 12, 16 and 19 include recitations directed to flexible members with two parts. One part, a first part, is for moving from an inward position, engaging a stub or rotating member associated with a motor, to an outward position, to allow for the lawnmower blade to be removed from the stub or rotating member. The other part of the flexible member is at a different location than the first part, and is such that pressure placed on this second part allows the first part to move from the inward position to the outward position.

Claims 9, 12 and 16, recite the above-described structure as the respective ends or second portions, of the flexible members, and these ends or second portions are configured such that downward pressure thereon, causes the engaging portions or first portions, respectively, to move outward. This outward movement, for example, allows the receiver, and hence, the blades to be releasable from the stub, or other rotating member.

Claim 19, as stated previously, is directed to a lawnmower blade including a receiver with flexible members having oppositely disposed first and second ends. The flexible members include first portions at the first ends, that are configured for moving between outward and inward positions, and second portions at the second ends, that are configured such that pressure thereon moves the first portions to the outward positions.

Weber teaches spring clips 13 with ends that are moved outward to release the blade 12 from the hub 14. This outward movement of the ends of the spring clips 13 is in no way the downward movement of the ends or second portions, that results in the engaging portions or first portions, respectively, moving outward, allowing the blades to be releasable, as recited in claims 9, 12 and 16.

Additionally, in Weber, the portion of the spring clip 13, that disengages from the hub 14, is the same portion that if moved manually, would be moved outward. This is in contrast to the subject matter recited in claims 9, 12, 16 and 19, where the engaging/disengaging portion of the flexible member is a different portion than the portions for receiving the pressure to move the engaging/disengaging portions to the outward positions.

Based on the above, Weber does not show the structure recited in claims 9, 12, 16 and 19. Accordingly, claims 9, 12, 16 and 19, are not anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b).

Moreover, since the flexible members of claims 9 and 12 operate in a completely different manner than the spring clips 13 of Weber, it is respectfully asserted that Weber can not render claims 9, 12, 16 and 19 obvious under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claims 9, 12, 16 and 19 are neither anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber under 35 USC 103(a), claims 10 and 11, 13-15, 17 and 18, and 20-22, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

Additionally, it is respectfully asserted that the arguments submitted above, are compliant with 37 CFR 1.111(c), as they clearly point out the novel structure in the claims, that is not disclosed in the cited art. As stated above, the claimed flexible members, with different portions for engaging/disengaging a stub or other rotatable member and portions for receiving pressure

placed thereon to move the former portions between inward and outward (engaging and disengaging) positions, have been asserted as structurally distinct over Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413), so as to be patentable over the cited art.

Finally, the correspondence address for the undersigned attorney should be changed to indicate the correspondence address as follows:

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The above described Office Action arrived at the office of the undersigned with numerous inaccuracies in the undersigned's address, including an incorrect law firm name and spelling therefor, "street" was not spelled completely, the city misspelled, and the zip code incorrect.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact Jerome R. Smith at 816-360-4119. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Jerome R. Smith at 816-360-4119.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, 9-22, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

POLSINELLI SHALTON WELTE SUELTHAUS PC

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